



THE LIFE CYCLE OF A CELL PHONE

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 12
Illustrations by IVETTE SALOM



The new iPhone came out in late September, and already you can't wait to get one. Suddenly, your current phone seems old and useless, its capabilities vastly limited compared to the new phone's promises. Sound familiar? While people are caught up in the whirlwind of new products, few actually stop to

think about the life cycle of the cell phone: What goes into making a cell phone? How was it made and who made it? And what will happen to it once you throw it in the trash?

First, let's look at what a cell phone is made of. Materials like glass, stainless steel and plastic are used for the outside of the phone, but for the electronic circuits inside, cell phones require



rare minerals that have to be mined from the earth. According to a *New York Times* investigative report, more than 90 percent of these minerals are mined from China, mostly from the Mongolian city of Baotou. The process produces large amounts of toxic waste that is often dumped into waterways. A man from Baotou told a reporter from the *Daily Mail*, "Anything we planted just withered, then our animals started to sicken and die." Not only that, but investigative reports have shown that many cell phone companies buy minerals from places like the Congo, where military groups sell them and use the profit to fund wars. Such minerals are called conflict materials.

Next let's look at the way cell phones are made. Cell phone companies manufacture products as cheaply as possible

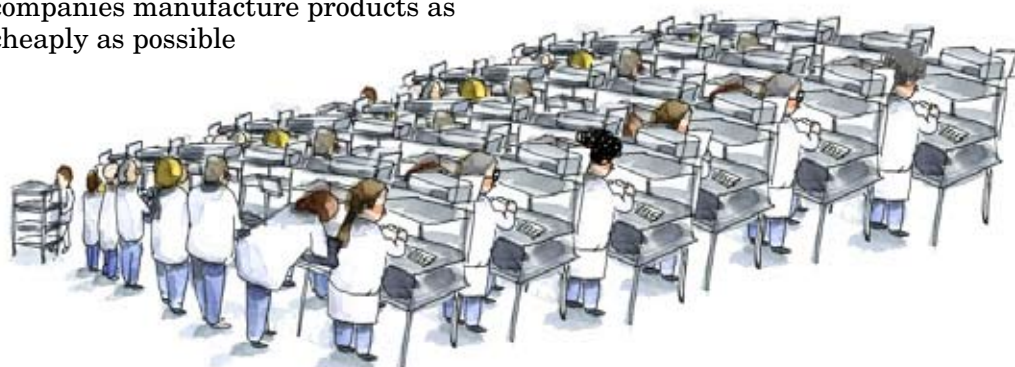
while still selling at high prices, to extract as large a profit as possible. In order to do that, they move production of phones to factories in countries with lower wages and labor standards. Allegations

have been leveled at Apple, Samsung and other large companies that they treat their workers poorly. The employees' living conditions are crowded, and they are forced to work long shifts, up to 15 hours a day. According to a January 2012 report in the *New York Times*, "[Apple] employees work excessive overtime, in some cases seven days a week, and live in crowded dorms."

What happens when you're ready to get rid of a cell phone? Many cell phones include lead, mercury and other toxic substances that can harm the environment if they are thrown in the garbage instead of being disposed of properly. Moreover, the majority of the electronics are shipped off to landfills in China, where workers without proper protective equipment often handle the materials.

The ideal method of disposing cell phones is to reuse or recycle them. There are many companies that will take your used or broken phone and disassemble it to recycle the materials for other purposes, or (if it is still in good condition) give it to people in need. The New York State Wireless Recycling Act states that wireless phone service providers must accept phones for recycling.

So next time you are tempted to throw out Old Faithful and replace it with the latest gadget, take a moment to remember all the time and resources that went into your phone and all the work that will be required to dispose of it correctly.





IGLICA LOGOFETOVA

Meet... **Vera** from Bulgaria

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10

Name: Vera Stefanova Nacheva

Age: 13

Lives In: Sofia, Bulgaria

Languages Spoken: Bulgarian, English and German

Parents' Jobs: Her mother is a lawyer and her father is a political consultant.

Favorite Foods: Pizza and spaghetti

Favorite Subject in School: Physical education (gym)

Favorite Activities: Walking the dog and riding a bicycle

How She Would Describe Herself: Kind, crazy, annoying and a good friend

What She Wants to Be When She Grows Up: An actress



IGNATIY NEV

Bulgaria at a Glance

Capital of Bulgaria: Sofia

Population: 7.7 million (One million Bulgarians are living abroad due to a lack of jobs at home.)

Languages Spoken: There is one official language, Bulgarian. The Turkish minority that makes up 8.8% of the population speaks Turkish.

Religions: 76% Eastern Orthodox, 10% Muslim, 11.8% nonreligious, 2.2% other

History: Slavic tribes from the Caucasus Mountains settled in the eastern part of the Roman Empire in the 5th Century. Bulgarians lived under Ottoman Empire control for 500 years until they were liberated by the Russians in 1878. Following World War II, Bulgaria had a communist government until political change led the country to transition into a parliamentary democracy in 1989. Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007.

2,510

Since the movement was first started in 2010, 2,510 new Little Free Libraries have been built throughout the world.

nation&world

The 2013 Mayoral Elections

By KAVI K. AHMED, age 11



The 2013 mayoral elections are approaching. On Tuesday, November 5, decisions that affect citizens all across the country will be made. In cities



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Fiorello H. LaGuardia was elected Mayor of New York City for three terms from 1934 to 1945.

such as Fairbanks, AK, Plainfield, IL and New York City, voters are concerned about who will be next to govern their town. So you may ask yourself, "What is so important about mayors and how do their actions in office affect my family, friends and me?"

Mayors have many different jobs and responsibilities. They must appoint the heads of important departments such as the police and fire departments. Mayors also vote on and create laws that should make the city a better and safer place. They decide how the city spends money on education, transportation, parks and housing.

The mayor must work long and hard to be elected. They must have

good ideas and strong leadership. One example of such a mayor is Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York City, who was elected for three terms, from 1934 to 1945. The morning after his election, he said, "New York City was restored to the people this morning at one minute after midnight. It is my duty from now on to guard and protect and guide the complete, peaceful and undisturbed enjoyment of that possession." In other words, a mayor must be ready to do the best for their city.

In times of crisis, mayors are especially important. After the Great Depression, LaGuardia helped get New York City back on its feet. He built roads, funded public housing and constructed parks. We should hope that the mayors elected in 2013 throughout the nation have all of these qualities and more.

Little Free Libraries: Is There One in Your Neighborhood?



By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 9

As public libraries disappear because of defunding, Little Free Libraries are thriving. In 2010, Todd Bol started this community book-sharing program in Wisconsin. To honor his schoolteacher mother, he built a small box in the shape of a one-room schoolhouse and filled it with books. His motto, "Take a book, leave a book," spread all over the world; in only two years Little Free Libraries became a global movement.

There are now 2,510 Little Free Libraries worldwide, including ones in Afghanistan, Australia and Ghana. But you don't have to look that far to find one. These little boxes can be found on the side of the road, on college campuses, beside bike paths and in the front yards of private homes. To keep costs down, they are usually made from recycled materials such as canoes, phone booths or beehives.

Materials are also available to order on the organization's website. Suzanne Pettypiece of Brooklyn, NY pooled money with her neighbors to purchase the supplies to build their own library in front of their co-op apartment building. When they came up short on cash, Todd Bol still sent them supplies to thank them for being the first Little Free Library in New York City. "The best thing is seeing children headed home on their scooters

from the local school that's a block away to pick something out," says Pettypiece.

Brooklyn New School librarian Susan Westover saw some of these literary creations in Ithaca, NY. She

commented, "I think these libraries are important because, well, there is this sense of sharing and I think it's really amazing how you can just be sharing something with people you don't even know."

The founder's mission was to share literacy with communities throughout the world, and it looks like he has achieved his goal. Pettypiece added, "I often find handwritten notes that say things like, 'thanks for making our community stronger.'"



ALI LEMINOV

A Little Free Library in Wisconsin.

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IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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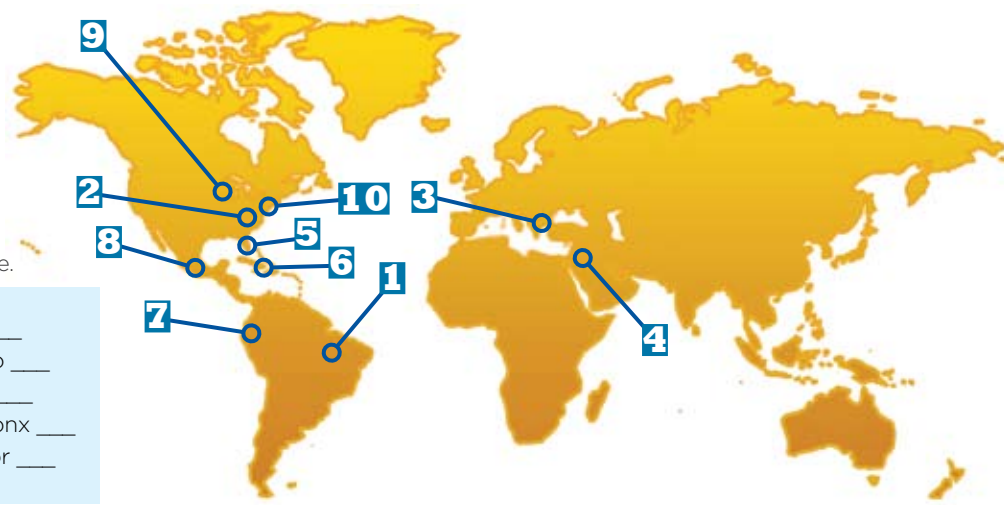
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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Bulgaria ____ | f) Syria ____ |
| b) Wisconsin ____ | g) Mexico ____ |
| c) Cuba ____ | h) Brazil ____ |
| d) Florida ____ | i) The Bronx ____ |
| e) Washington, D.C. ____ | j) Ecuador ____ |



Bulgarians are Looking for Change

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10

The resignation of Boiko Borisov, the former prime minister of Bulgaria, after a nationwide protest in February, brought joy to many of its citizens; the protests before his resignation were the worst in 15 years.

Bulgaria, a small country and one of the poorest in Eastern Europe, was in the middle of an immense corruption scandal. Electric bills had skyrocketed and protesters, including young kids, were waving the country's flag and shouting words of anger at the government in the streets of Sofia, the capital city.

The citizens were angry at the wave of corruption, political instability, the high cost of living, low wages and their unsure futures. "For me, it's new to see so many people protesting. It's great that people don't sleep and are ready to declare their disagreement on the street," says Genadi Nedelchev, a 25-year-old office worker. There has been corruption in the voting system; in a recent election, 350,000 illegal ballots were found in a printing press owned by a government official.

This protest follows unrest in other countries, including Brazil, Turkey and the United States. The Bulgarian people are making less money as resources are not being shared evenly, which has resulted in a



MATTEO FINCO

Protestors of all ages gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria to voice their frustration about corruption, political instability, the high cost of living, low wages and their unsure futures.

high rate of people moving abroad. More recently, in response to the protests, the government announced that the minimum salary will be raised by 10 percent in January 2014.

Bulgaria joined the European Union (EU) in 2007, with the hope of improving their economy, but most people are still waiting to see this happen.

Diana Nyad Found a Way

By AMELIA LOEFFLER, age 11

At 1:55 p.m. on September 2, Diana Nyad became the first person confirmed to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage for protection. She swam a total distance of 110 miles!

This was Nyad's fifth attempt to make the trip, but it was a dream of hers since her years as a professional competitive swimmer. She made her first effort in 1978 when she was 28, but she was directed off course by strong winds. She tried again in 2011, and then twice in 2012, but stinging jellyfish stopped her.

Nyad was 64 when she began her marathon swim for the fifth time on August 31. She wore a bodysuit, booties, gloves and a face mask to prevent jellyfish stings. Throughout the swim, she rested by treading water and tried to stay hydrated with fresh water provided to her by her crew that followed her in boats and kayaks. After almost 53 hours in the ocean and no sleep, Nyad reached a Key West beach, finally setting the record and achieving her long-held goal.



ASTERIX611

Diana Nyad was the first person confirmed to swim from Cuba to the United States without a protective shark cage.

Nyad and her crew were greeted by fans at the beach. "I have three messages: one is that we should never give up; two is you are never too old to chase your dreams; and three is that it looks like a solitary sport, but it takes a team."

Nyad's mantra through the swim was, "Find a way, you'll make it through."

newsbriefs



JOHN SONDERMAN

United States Government Grinds to a Halt

TEEN REPORTER

By ROBERT IVKO, age 14

The U.S. government shut down from October 1 to 17 because Congress could not agree on how to fund its budget. As a result, 800,000 federal workers were furloughed, or instructed not to come to work until the end of the shutdown. However, not every federal agency stopped working. Most essential services, like post offices, kept running. The government shutdown ended after Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate finally came to an agreement.



DANIELA KANTOROVA

"Idle No More" Rally for Environmental Justice

KID REPORTER

By SADIE PARKER, age 11

Idle No More, an indigenous rights movement that fights for sovereignty and environmental protection in Canada, teamed up with grassroots renewable energy advocate PowerShift BC to rally for environmental justice on October 7. The rally represented young people and First Nations indigenous groups working together to speak out against practices that would contribute to climate change, like the extraction of tar sands oil. The mood was celebratory and the focus was on building a just and sustainable future.



MARION DOSS

OPCW Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

KID REPORTER

By HASSAN DOOSTDAR, age 11

The OPCW (Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) recently won the Nobel Peace Prize for overseeing the destruction of nearly 82 percent of the total 71,194 metric tons of declared chemical weapons in the world. The organization includes 190 member nations and abides by the Chemical Weapons Convention prohibiting the use of these weapons and mandating their destruction. Not one chemical weapons inspector has been killed since the OPCW's creation in 1997.



what is a REFUGEE?

Illustrations by KIT MILLS

Introduction by NANCY RYERSON, IndyKids Volunteer

Refugees are people who have had to leave their homes because of war or other violence, environmental disasters or a bad economy that leaves them unable to get jobs or make enough money. Sometimes refugees live in a house with people they know, but often, they are homeless or live in temporary housing for weeks, months or even years. According to the UN Refugee Agency, there are currently 45.2 million people in the world who have had to leave their homes against their will. That's the highest number in 14 years. Almost half of them are children.



War Refugees

By DAPHNE KNOUSE FRENZER, age 12



Many refugees flee their own country in search of refuge in times of war, political oppression or religious persecution.

Since the start of the Syrian civil war, roughly 7 million Syrians have been displaced: 5 million within Syria, and 2 million to neighboring countries such as Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq.

The civil war began in April 2011, when peaceful protests in Syria against the government took a turn for the worse. Protestors demanded that President Bashar al-Assad, whose family has been in power since 1971, step down. During a protests in Damascus, the capital city, the *Associated Press* captured images of protestors holding signs with Assad's face along with the message, "Leave. We don't trust you. You will leave and we will stay because Syria is ours. Enough of injustice and killing." The government responded to the demonstrations by killing, imprisoning and torturing protestors. Soon after, civilians formed rebel groups to fight against the Syrian government and the fighting escalated into a civil war.

In August 2013, the Syrian government was suspected to have used chemical weapons against civilians, killing hundreds of people. This produced many more refugees, many of whom lost loved ones in that attack. One million of these refugees are children.

Refugees live in tents or makeshift houses made out of rubble, plastic and wood. Kids living in the camps play in ditches often filled with contaminated water, or run barefoot through the rubble, trying to find some fun in their situation. Seventy-five percent of the refugee children are under 11 years old. While talking to a BBC reporter, Rasha, a 10-year-old living with her family in a refugee camp in Lebanon said, "I like going to school [...] It's better in Lebanon — there are no bombs here."

Environmental Refugees

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 8



The United Nations defines environmental refugees as "those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption." However, these refugees are not officially recognized or protected by international laws.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, over 30 million people fled their homes in 2012 because of environmental disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, drought and storms. Janet Sawin, climate change expert at the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D.C., told *National Geographic*, "Human migrations are expected to increase as average global temperatures continue to rise and we experience rising sea levels, more severe weather disasters and other impacts as a result." The UN predicts that there will be over 50 million environmental refugees by 2020.

The crisis of these refugees is not just one of far-off countries. On October 29, 2012, Superstorm Sandy destroyed homes in New York, New Jersey and other states, creating 776,000 environmental refugees.

Since the storm hit, New York City has spent over \$73 million in FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds to house more than 3,000 evacuees through a program that placed them in area hotels. Three hundred and fifty homeless Sandy refugees remain in the hotel program, which the city has been fighting to end since FEMA announced that funds would stop after September. Nine-year-old Isaiah Douglas and his family were evacuated from Far Rockaway, Queens, to a shelter in the Bronx, and finally to a cramped hotel room in Times Square. Isaiah has had to switch schools numerous times, missing many days, and his parents are unsure where his family will live if they have to leave the hotel.

"I just want stability," said Isaiah in an interview with the *New York Daily News*. "It really scared me to go through Hurricane Sandy."



Economic Refugees

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 11



When people have to leave their homes or communities to escape poverty, they are refugees, according to the nonprofit group Project Economic Refugee. This phenomenon occurs all over the world, but many do not realize that the United States is directly involved with a massive economic refugee crisis.

For years, Mexicans have migrated to their northern neighbor to escape poverty. In 1994, the United States, Mexico and Canada signed an agreement creating a free trade zone called the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). This made it cheaper for North American companies to ship products to the other countries within the zone.

Supporters of NAFTA claimed that it would strengthen each country's economy. However, its critics say that it is causing Mexicans to lose their jobs. Before the agreement, there was an economic wall between the United States and Mexico in addition to the legal wall keeping people from easily moving back and forth. NAFTA brought down the economic wall, opening up the Mexican economy to big U.S. companies, but the legal wall preventing free movement remains.

The result, according to CBS, is that "American farmers have flooded Mexico with cheap corn thanks to U.S. government subsidies — subsidies which were left unchecked by NAFTA. A U.S. farmer receives an average annual subsidy of \$20,000. The Mexican government gives their farmers only about \$100." Mexican farmers are leaving their towns because many small farms cannot compete under these circumstances. An estimated two million farm workers have lost their jobs. Most of them crossed the U.S. border looking for alternatives, becoming economic refugees in the United States.

Since NAFTA, Mexican immigration to the north has skyrocketed. In 1990, 4.5 million Mexican-born people lived in the United States. In 2008 it peaked at 12.67 million. Despite these effects, the United States continues to create similar trade agreements with other regions of the world.



Glossary of terms **chemical weapon:** a device that uses chemicals to injure or kill people. They are a type of weapon of mass destruction (WMD), and are illegal under the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency): an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for coordinating federal responses to disasters that are too big for state and local governments to handle alone.

free trade zone: an area generally including two or more nations where products can move freely without being subject to certain import and export taxes. NAFTA created a free trade zone among the United States, Mexico and Canada.

subsidy: a sum of money given by the government to a company to decrease their production costs. This enables the company to keep the prices of their products low and competitive.



MRTINDC

Next Time You Drink, Drink Water from the Sink

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10



Many people believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water because they think bottled water is cleaner. However, studies have shown that the opposite could be true due to toxins in the plastic. Furthermore, though bottled water may be convenient, the industry is a great polluter. In order to make the 29 billion plastic water bottles that Americans purchase each year, manufacturers use 17 million barrels of crude oil. Save the earth. Use the faucet.



AUSSIE ACTIVE

African Elephants Get the Point

By KATIE SCHLECHTER, IndyKids Staff

Researchers working in southern Africa have proven that African elephants can understand basic human gestures like pointing. While this skill is common among many domesticated animals like dogs, cats, goats and horses, it is rare for wild animals. The ability of African elephants to understand human social cues could explain why we have been able to successfully train and work with these giant creatures for thousands of years.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Endangered Tropics?

By JULIANA BERROA, age 11



Jaguars, not polar bears, will be the first to disappear from the food chain as global warming continues. Researchers predict in the next 10 years, the tropics will experience a drastic change in climate. Rising sea levels in low-lying coastal areas, less rainfall throughout inland regions and warmer temperatures will cause an imbalance in natural habitats. Tropical areas near the equator depend on a very delicate balance of temperature and rainfall, which means animals and plants will have a hard time adapting to new conditions.

29,000,000,000

Americans consume 29 billion plastic bottles of water a year. Manufacturers use 17 million barrels of crude oil to meet this demand.

culture&activism

Where Have the Bees Gone?

By ANA PHELAN, age 10



Most plants depend on pollination to reproduce. Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the male to the female parts of a flower so it can form seeds and produce more plants. Most plants need pollinators to move the pollen. The main pollinators are bees, butterflies, moths and flies. Bees are the most important pollinators in most parts of the world.

Studies have shown a big decline in the bee population since 2006. Honeybees from beekeepers have been declining throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Africa. This decline is called Colony Collapse Disorder, and it has wiped out about 10 million beehives over the past seven years. Scientists think the reasons for this are the use of pesticides, disease-bearing parasites and bad nutrition.

"The problem with the bee decline is that it is very difficult to pinpoint one specific thing that is wrong," said Gary Rondeau, a beekeeper from Eugene, OR. "Beekeepers always lose some colonies, especially over the winter. Last year I lost all five of my beehives. That was unusually bad."

Many beekeepers think the use of new types of pesticides called neonicotinoids is the main reason why entire bee colonies are dying. Bees collect nectar from



BRIGITTE WOHACK

Many beekeepers think the use of new types of pesticides called neonicotinoids is the main reason why entire bee colonies are dying.

plants that have been sprayed with pesticides, fungicides, insecticides and herbicides that are toxic to them. They bring these poisons back to their hives when they collect the nectar and pass it on to other bees.

Bees are critical because they help plants move the pollen so there can be more plants, which include the plants that grow the food we eat. Our food sources depend on keeping bees healthy so that they can continue to do this important job.

Bottle Lights: A Simple Solution to Light Up a Room

By RYEN OLIVIA BABBS, age 8



Alfredo Moser lights up the darkness in the world. Moser invented a source of light that helps people who do not have electricity. In 2002, the inventor created bottle lights to help illuminate his home in Brazil during one of the country's many blackouts. BBC News estimates that by early 2014, at least one million poor people around the world are expected to be using bottle lights.

Bottle lights are made by filling a recycled bottle with water and adding two spoonfuls of bleach to prevent algae from growing. The bottles are then installed into house roofs, and when the sun strikes the bottles, the water inside lights up a room.

Moser's invention is already helping people in countries like Bangladesh, Argentina and Fiji. Some groups around the world, such as the MyShelter Foundation in the Philippines, help people earn money by training them to install bottle lights in homes. According to Angelo Diaz, executive director of MyShelter, "Alfredo Moser has changed the lives of a tremendous number of people, I think forever."

In places like Bangladesh and the Philippines, some people use illegal electricity because electricity is expensive. Others use candles and lamps, which can cause fires, since electrical connectors are not installed where they live. Bottle lights are not only legal, but also safe.

Most important, bottle lights help the poor to save money. Moser told the *Latin Times*, "There was one man who installed the lights and within a month he had saved enough to pay for the essential things for his child, who was about to be born. Can you imagine?"



JEN LEUNG

Moser's bottle lights may help reduce the need to hook up to illegal electricity, minimizing fires and electrocution.



JOIMSON

Bottle lights are made by filling a recycled bottle with water and adding two spoonfuls of bleach to prevent algae from growing.

Around the Borough: The Bronx

New York City is divided into five big neighborhoods called *boroughs*. The five boroughs are Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Each one has a very distinct personality and could almost be its own city. For this issue, this page is dedicated to stories from **the Bronx**.

yourturn

Kids Talk About E-Waste

New technology is constantly entering the marketplace. On one hand, these new gadgets, like cell phones, represent our ability to invent and create amazing products. But when they are thrown away so quickly to be replaced by the newest invention, it can become very wasteful. What do you think about “e-waste” and the life cycle of new technology like cell phones?



Technology should be refurbished or recycled. People should make use of the parts that are not needed and replace them so as not to harm the environment

Amy Acosta, age 9



E-waste is not good for the environment and electronics should be donated to the poor. People should be more conscious about electronics and not waste their money for new ones.

Alejandra Paulino, age 11



When disposing an electronic is looked at as not a big deal, most people don't consider the impact that this could have on their health or the environment before getting the newest gadget. There are many companies that focus on the reduction of e-waste by allowing customers to recycle electronics. Don't be afraid to make a difference — recycle.

Edwin George, age 14

Someday, you could be a Program Associate at a Non-Profit Arts Organization, just like Hector Rivera

By THEO FRYE-YANOS, age 11

Can you imagine working with children and helping to arrange free arts programs to empower them throughout their lives? Well, that is exactly what Hector Rivera, Program Associate for DreamYard, does.

Theo Frye-Yanos: What does DreamYard do?

Hector Rivera: DreamYard is a nonprofit organization based in the South Bronx that works to incorporate art and creativity into children's lives and provide them with opportunities for a successful future. Its programs are free, and they rely on donations and funding from grants. They have in-school programming in over 40 public schools in NYC.

How did you get working with DreamYard?

I started as a child in DreamYard while it was just beginning, and I was one of its first students. I was doing its theater program, and I remember playing the lead role in *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*. From then on,

I fell in love with the arts. Then, a few years after that, a friend told me about a summer theater program in DreamYard that was performing *Romeo and Juliet*. Having loved all of Shakespeare's works, I wanted to be in the performance. I was able to enroll myself in the program, and I loved it. My years of doing DreamYard had influenced me greatly.

Many years later, in my Junior Year at Bard College at Simon's Rock, I started interning for DreamYard. I wanted to get involved at the community level, and they were able to hire me full-time, working in the Bronx. And I have worked as a Program Associate for DreamYard ever since.

What is special about what DreamYard does?

DreamYard is special because it works to provide children with free, quality resources. All of our programs are children-based and have a big emphasis on social change. Our three core values are Empower, Create and Connect.



HECTOR RIVERA

What is your favorite part about working with DreamYard?

There are many parts that I like about working with DreamYard, but I've got to say that my favorite is the fact that I work with children, kindergarten through fifth grade. Some days, I will be in a bad mood, and not feel like going to work. And when I get there, I see a bunch of children with smiling faces and it cheers me right up.

From the Bronx, Hip-Hop Activists Rebel Diaz Rap for Change

By MALIK NICKENS, IndyKids Intern

Hip-hop has always been the voice of the oppressed. Emerging from the South Bronx, hip-hop has become a multimillion dollar enterprise. Hip-hop group Rebel Diaz is using that influence to bring the local community together and create powerful, positive change.

Based in the South Bronx, Rebel Diaz is fronted by brothers G1 (Gonzalo Venegas) and RodStarz (Rodrigo Venegas) and DJ Illanoiz (Julio Calderon). Since 2006, they have performed at social justice events nationally and internationally. In September, Rebel Diaz released the video for “I'm an Alien,” from their debut album *Radical Dilemma*. The song inspires the listener to think about the people they call aliens and the lives they live, or to “take a walk for a mile in the shoes of the man that picks your fruit,” as coined by G1.

In 2008, with help of the South Bronx community, the group opened the Rebel Diaz Arts Collective, or RDACBX, a community arts center and multimedia space that provided resources and tools for teachers, activists, artists and musicians to expand and grow together.

“Hip-hop started in the Bronx, but the Bronx had no hip-hop community center,” said RodStarz. “We wanted to give young people a space to learn and perform.”

In 2013, Rebel Diaz lost the space in a dispute with the landlord. The landlord cited unpaid rent, graffiti and complaints from neighbors as the reason for a \$1,000 rent increase. When RDACBX challenged the increase, they received an eviction order. Law enforcement was sent in to force Rebel Diaz and RDACBX members from their home. Rebel Diaz



HOSSAM EL-HAMALAWY

Hip-hop group Rebel Diaz is using their influence to bring the local community together and create powerful, positive change.

and RDACBX members felt that they were being discriminated against because of their political activism and fought the eviction.

Despite the eviction, the RDACBX continues to stay strong and hold their programs in different community spaces with the help of Bronx-based community organizations.

CHOTA, PIECE OF HEAVEN

By ARIEL SEBASTIÁN AGUAS CALDERÓN, age 8



Chota es un pequeño pueblo de aproximadamente unas 120 familias. Es un pueblo afro donde nacieron mis padres, donde viven mis abuelitos. Cuando tengo vacaciones me gusta ir para jugar con las piedras lanzándolas en el río, me gusta nadar y jugar con mis primos, Melanie, Luis Fernando e Iker. Mi abuelita prepara ricas comidas tradicionales afros que me gustan mucho como el picadillo, arroz con guandul y ensalada.

Chota es mi pueblo favorito por el sol y el río que tiene el mismo nombre del pueblo.

Nombre: Ariel Sebastián Aguas Calderón.

Quito-Ecuador.



Chota is a small town of about 120 families. It is an Afro-Ecuadorian village where my parents were born and my grandparents live. When I am off from school, I like to play with rocks, throwing them into the river. I like to swim and play with my cousins, Melanie, Luis Fernando and Iker. My grandmother prepares delicious traditional Afro-Ecuadorian food that I like a lot, like ground beef with vegetables, rice with pigeon peas and salad.

Chota is my favorite village because of the sun and the river, which has the same name as the town.

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OCEANIK

ORIGINAL CARTOON BY CRISTINA BERROA

By CRISTINA BERROA, age 9



GETTING WILD WITH THE WATER BUFFALO

By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 10

The water buffalo, or the domestic Asian water buffalo if you want to get specific, is a large mammal found throughout India and Southeast Asia. Their scientific name is Bubalus Bubalis, and they have gray, black, brown and tan coats. Water buffalo have been domesticated for more than 5,000 years, and are raised for their meat, hide and milk and their reputation as sturdy work animals. Since so many people in Asia depend upon them for transportation and to plow fields, they are sometimes referred to as the "living tractor of the East." Wild water buffalo are classified as endangered: there has been a 50 percent decline in the population of the species over the past three generations, which will likely continue as they are bred with domesticated water buffalo.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Standing five to six feet tall at the shoulders, water buffalo are the largest member of the Bovini tribe. This tribe includes yak,

bison, African buffalo and other species of wild cattle.

- These herbivores primarily feed on grass. Wild water buffalo tend to live in marshes and swamplands where they can wallow in mud and cool water.
- Both male and female water buffalo have horns that curve backward in a crescent shape, but female horns are shorter.
- The litter size is usually one calf, and the lifespan of a domesticated water buffalo is approximately 25 years.
- You wouldn't want a water buffalo to fall on you: they weigh between 1,500 and 2,650 pounds!
- The water buffalo isn't likely to break many speed limits on the highway, but they do move faster than humans, with speeds as high as 30 mph.



WORD SEARCH

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 12



BULGARIA
BRONX
CONFLICT MATERIALS
DREAMYARD
E-WASTE
HURRICANE SANDY
LIBRARIES

MAYOR
NAFTA
POLLINATION
REBEL DIAZ
REFUGEES
SYRIA
WATER BUFFALO

C	H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	S	A	N	D	Y	E	T
P	O	L	L	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	Y	R	I	Y	P
W	X	N	O	R	B	I	W	A	T	W	R	S	W	W	X	Z
A	M	E	F	F	H	R	E	B	E	L	D	I	A	Z	R	T
T	O	I	X	L	A	Y	E	R	E	F	U	G	E	E	S	H
E	I	W	B	I	I	S	X	O	R	E	B	L	E	D	A	I
R	T	A	R	B	R	C	E	Y	E	D	E	N	D	Y	B	C
B	A	S	O	R	A	X	T	A	E	A	T	F	A	N	U	O
U	N	T	N	A	G	N	H	M	S	L	S	X	F	F	L	N
F	I	E	K	R	L	R	E	F	A	L	A	N	F	R	G	F
F	L	E	K	I	U	Y	A	R	D	T	W	U	E	O	A	L
A	L	W	S	E	B	U	F	A	L	L	E	R	E	N	R	I
L	O	H	T	S	D	R	A	Y	M	A	E	R	D	X	T	C
O	P	G	T	R	L	A	I	R	E	T	A	M	I	G	A	T
H	U	R	I	C	A	N	E	S	N	A	D	Y	H	A	J	M
L	I	B	R	A	R	T	E	S	N	U	F	T	A	F	L	A
U	H	X	A	I	D	R	O	Y	A	M	U	I	R	Y	S	S